



PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY BY  
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TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 12.

In the U. S. Senate to day bills were passed authorizing the purchase of the Freedman's Bank building in Washington for \$275,000 with \$5,000 for fitting it up; authorizing a commission to provide for enlarged accommodation for the Congressional Library, and to make the 22d of February a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, to take effect after the next 22d. The Silver bill was further discussed by Mr. McDonald and others.

The House committee of the whole had under consideration the West Point Academy appropriation bill. The presentation of Carpenter's ideal picture of Lincoln signing the emancipation proclamation took place at 2 p. m., a large crowd being in attendance.

Secretary Sherman acknowledges that he and Messrs. Stanley Matthews, J. A. Garfield, Eugene Hall and Harry White did send a letter of sympathy and condolence to their associate in the fraud by which Louisiana was counted for Hayes, Mr. Anderson, who is now in jail, and says that he regards "the arrest, trial and conviction of Anderson as a great outrage under color of the forms of law." "I still hope," he says, "the conviction will not be carried into execution, but if it is, as a matter of course, the deepest feeling of resentment and hostility will exist in the minds of the great mass of our people, who believe that these returning Board officers did but their simple duty. If Anderson is imprisoned under this sentence it will be a mockery of public justice and will bring into contempt all efforts at peace and conciliation. It is an unlooked for and terrible commentary upon the efforts of the President to quiet the turbulence and violence of Louisiana politics, and seems to me an act of folly and madness." The President has, it is also reported, written a letter to Attorney General Devens on the subject of General Anderson's conviction, in which regret is expressed that such proceedings should have taken place, as apart from all other considerations, they tend to disturb the conciliation which it was hoped would be satisfactory to all parties in Louisiana; that the prosecution was a violation of the pledges made last spring, and that "he has now determined to use all the influence of which he is possessed to save Wells and Anderson from punishment." Mr. Hayes is President, and will be until the expiration of the term for which he was inaugurated—unless he shall be impeached and deposed for offences to be committed hereafter—and during that time can, if it pleases him so to do, retain Mr. Sherman as Secretary of the Treasury; but, considering the means by which he acquired his position, and the limited support he has among his own party, it strikes us that the less he has to do with the Louisiana returning board and any of its members the better it may be for him. Nobody expects Mr. Sherman or any of the "visiting statesmen" to be pleased with the punishment of their "pals," for they know that the conviction of Anderson was, and that that of Wells will be, just, and that, if justice were meted out to all engaged in the fraud, they, as well as the Louisianians, would now be behind grated windows, but, whether true or not, the public believes it is altogether different with him, and that the only thing he had to do with the fraud was to reap its fruit, and it would be as conducive to his own as to the interests of the country at large to disturb that belief as little as possible. Our own idea about the trial of the members of the Louisiana returning board is that it should never have been commenced, but, now that it has been, any attempt to interfere with it must not only fail, but result disastrously to those who make it, and if the President be the ill-advised one he will regret it to the day of his death.

Mr. Kellogg, upon whose vote probably depends the passage of the Silver bill over the President's expected veto, thinks it very hard that he should be called upon, just at this time, and before he has had time to accumulate anything, to repay a loan of \$20,000 which he effected last winter for the purpose of securing the inauguration of President Hayes. But his creditors are pressing him. Mr. Wells also thinks it hard that he and his colleagues of the returning board should be made to suffer for securing Mr. Hayes' inauguration, while Mr. Sherman and the visiting statesmen, who assisted him, are permitted to dress in fine linen and live sumptuously.

The Maryland legislature having reported adversely upon Mr. Montgomery Blair's memorial for a reopening of the Presidential election case, that gentleman has determined to introduce into the House of Delegates of Maryland, of which body he is a member, resolutions condemning the fraud by which Mr. Hayes was inaugurated, and denouncing all who were instrumental in accomplishing it. Mr. Blair is the most persistent man of the age, but his efforts are directed toward the attainment of unavailing objects, and were it not for the remarkable manner in which the President is acting they would cease to be subjects for newspaper comments.

The way in which the bodies of the persons drowned by the wreck of the steamer Metropolis were plundered shows that the morality of wreckers has not improved since the days of Walter Scott's Pirate.

The man has at last been found who would not cower before the august presence of a hotel clerk. The remarkable individual is an Englishman named Thomas Alexander Hayes Robinson, who arrived in New York yesterday and ordered his breakfast at the New York Hotel. The check for one dollar was presented to him, which he refused to pay without the items were specified. The rules of the house being \$1 for breakfast, no matter what he ate, were explained to him, but he did not care for the rules, and on the clerk remonstrating with him he knocked him down, and has thus become the champion iconoclast.

Deputy Collector Tomlinson, of the port of New Orleans, who resisted the sheriff in his attempt to arrest the members of the Louisiana returning board, has been temporarily released, as his imprisonment while the Collector of the port, Mr. Anderson, is in jail, would necessarily obstruct the business of the Custom House.

Mr. Belmont has written a letter in reply to that of Mr. Hendricks, in which he not only proves that the latter gentleman is "inconsistent," but that he is not "right." He maintains that the passage of the Silver bill will be detrimental to every interest and everybody in the country.

We have another instance of the incomprehensible absence of political discretion and ordinary discernment that characterizes the present average democratic Southern Congressmen in the case of Mr. Aiken, who, yesterday, declared, on the floor of the House, that he would vote to abolish West Point.

The March-April number of the North American Review will contain a discussion of the subject of Eternal Punishment, written by six of the most prominent clergymen in the country, representing as many sects.

**News of the Day.**  
Charles M. Conrad died at New Orleans yesterday, aged seventy-three. He was born in Winchester, Virginia, but was carried by his father when very young to Mississippi, and thence to Louisiana. He was a Senator in Congress in 1842 and 1843. Elected to Congress as a Representative in 1849, he resigned in August, 1850, to assume the Secretaryship of War under President Fillmore. During the civil war he was a brigadier-general in the Confederate service.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in his sermon Sunday evening spoke of the late Pope as "that dear and good old man who had just gone to Heaven from the Pontifical chair. When Pius IX. died," said Mr. Beecher, "that instant God's angels bore him gently as a little child in the arms of his mother into the presence of his Saviour. It was not because he was Pope, but because a new heart had been given him. The nature of the Pope was all love."

Two murdered infants were found on the common near Washington last Saturday night; one on the low grounds south of the Capitol was white, and showed a terrible gash serving its throat, and one side of its head was bruised as though an attempt had been made to break its skull.

A general suspension of coal production in the Schuylkill region commenced yesterday, and will continue until the 25th instant. This suspension is in accordance with the agreement of the coal combination, but falls with great severity upon the miners, who have been working upon half time for several weeks past.

Gideon Wells died at Hartford, Conn., last evening, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was the editor of the Hartford Times in 1826, and was Secretary of the Navy, through the terms of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

#### Legislative.

In the State Senate yesterday, a resolution repealing a resolution approved in 1850 transferring to the Orange and Alexandria railroad a claim of Virginia against the Federal Government for \$120,000 was passed.

Mr. Johnson introduced a bill to provide for the payment of the public debt, and denied the statement of the Richmond Whig that he had claimed the authorship of the Brooke bill.

In the House of Delegates a resolution was introduced to reduce the license tax on physicians and to provide for an additional tax of one per centum on every hundred dollars of professional incomes over \$600.

Bills were reported from committees to amend the Code in relation to the organization, government and discipline of the penitentiary; and providing for the lease of the penitentiary and the hiring of convict labor.

The Salary Bill was taken up and considered. The bill fixes the salary of the Governor at \$5,000 per annum; Clerk \$300; Secretary of the Commonwealth \$2,000; Assistant Clerk, \$1,200; Comptroller, \$1,040; Auditor, \$1,000; Clerk of Accounts, \$1,600; two first clerks, \$1,280 each; two second clerks, \$1,040; three third clerks \$960 each; two fourth clerks, \$800 each; Second Auditor, \$2,000; first clerk, \$1,280; second clerk, \$1,040; third clerk, \$960 each; Treasurer, \$2,000; first clerk, \$1,280; second clerk, \$1,040; third clerk, \$960; Superintendent of Public Printing, \$1,200; Judges of the Court of Appeals, \$3,000 each; the President of the court whose salary shall be \$3,200; Judges of Circuit Courts, \$1,600, except the Judge of the 7th District, whose salary shall be \$2,300; County Judges, \$230, and an additional compensation of \$20 for every thousand inhabitants over ten thousand.

The Clerk of the Court of Appeals at Richmond, \$800, and the clerks of said court at Staunton and Wytheville, \$400 each; the clerk of the Circuit Court of the city of Richmond, \$160. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall each receive the sum of seven hundred and twenty dollars, and each of the other members of the General Assembly the sum of three hundred and sixty dollars for attendance and services on each regular session of the General Assembly; and, on all extra sessions, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall each receive three hundred and sixty dollars, and each of the other members of the General Assembly the sum of one hundred and eighty dollars for attendance upon the duties of their respective offices. Superintendent of the Penitentiary, \$1,600; first assistant keeper, \$720; second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh assistant keepers each, \$640; moreover, each of said assistant keepers shall be allowed \$80 worth of the manufactures of the penitentiary at the price fixed by the directors every year. The General Agent and Storekeeper a commission of five per centum on all sales amounting to \$75,000 and under, and on all sales above that amount a commission of eight per centum, other than sales made at auction by him.

An amendment, at the Governor's instance, allowing him no clerical force except that in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, was adopted; as also one cutting down the allowance of \$400 for office rent of the Attorney General, and requiring the Governor to furnish that officer with a room in the Capitol, if possible.

The bill to incorporate the Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio Railroad Company was passed. Mr. Farr presented petitions of citizens of Mount Vernon district, Fairfax county, for and against the repeal of the fence law in said district.

#### Letters from Richmond.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)  
RICHMOND, February 9, 1878.

The session of the Legislature this year is undoubtedly unprecedently dull. The corps of newspaper reporters and correspondents have little chance to display their energy and enterprise for news. It is hoped that before the session is over news will brighten up. Richmond has its full quota of newspaper correspondents, and I doubt not that there is about as much activity among them on a Saturday night as can be found within the precincts of "news-paper row." Washington. It is a fact that cannot be denied that the Northern and Western press attach more importance to news coming from the Old Dominion than any other portion of the South, and hence they all have representatives in Richmond. During the session of the Legislature local news is generally out down in order to make way for the sayings and the few doings of the Legislature. The members of the local press are also ever on the watch tower for news. Each one has his own way of getting it and presenting it to the public. Let it be supposed that on a dull day one citizen—perhaps an intimate friend of Gen. Joseph E. Johnson—had mentioned to another citizen the fact that on the night before he had taken supper with General Johnson, and that Gen. Johnson had eaten beans for supper. This intelligence would reach the newspaper reporter or correspondent. Other people would pay no attention to it. Not so the newspaper man. He would revolve in his mind the comments of the Northern press on this piece of information. He would see the New York Times out in four double-headed columns calling attention to the significant fact that the great rebel leader had eaten beans for supper last night. What did it portend? Why was it that the ex-Confederate leader ate beans at night instead of in the day time? When the honest men of the North are asleep this great rebel soldier-genius is eating beans by gas light. The old Union soldiers will understand why it is significant. It was well known that the principal diet of the rebel soldiers was pork and beans. It was well known that the army of Northern Virginia, under the ministrations of Chaplain J. William Jones, would, on the march, sing that beautiful hymn, "When I can read my title clear To mansions in the skies," and would, at sight of the Northern army and its covered array of sutler's wagons, with clear, pealing voices and wet eyes, conclude the verse, "I'll bid farewell to pork and beans, And live on chicken pie."

Then the Times would go on to show the hidden plot. Gen. Johnson distilling himself to get ready for the old war time fare; the fact of his being brought forward for Congress but a pretext to rouse the inflamed Southern mind. Tilden was to be in the Presidential chair, Joseph E. Johnson to be Secretary of War, and then the Union menaced. Such in brief would be what the reporter's keen insight stretch his imagination to see before him. He would pour in to him, as from the Tribune, "inform us, regardless of expense, whether Gen. Johnson does not eat exclusively of beans raised on the Texas Pacific route. Whitelaw Reid," or from the Herald, "Spare nothing to get name and history of man who sells Johnson beans, J. G. Bennett," or from the World, "State fact that trade dollar will not buy the Johnson beans. The World," and so on. Now the way each newspaper man would go about getting this information is the study. W. D. Chesterman, of the Dispatch, would call on the General at his house, if he could not catch him on the street. He would not let the General know what he was after, but would engage him in a quiet talk, and gradually lead the General to the point where he would say beans. No doubt he would begin by asking the General about the debt; from the debt he would go to the members of the Legislature; then he would discuss one particular member, taking care that that member was a farmer, then from the farmer he would go to the farm products; from farm products he would discourse on the mistake Virginians make in confining themselves to one staple; then he would allude to the money that is in small things such as cabbage, onions and beans; then he would, with smacking lips and a Confederate soldier's smile, dwell on the virtues of a good dish of beans; then the General would get warmed up and tell how he ate beans for supper, and how long he had been eating beans, and after half an hour's conversation the reporter would go away with all the information that he wanted, and the General would never know how he got it. But the next man that came along would evoke the General. Just as the General moves out Mr. Wm. C. Taylor, of the State, would accost him by slapping him on the shoulder and taking his arm and saying, "Hello Joe!" and go on, "What is this I hear about your eating beans for supper last night? The General would want to know what business it was of his, and for a time the indefatigable Taylor would be able to stretch his report together bit by bit. But upon explaining the importance of the occasion he would finally get a brief statement from the General and would haul out from his pocket a note book and say, "Joe, just write that down for me, will you." Before he leaves the General will have made a memorandum.

Ah, ha, what poorly gentleman is that whose eyes twinkle behind a pair of spectacles, and whose teeth hold a meerschaum pipe, one hand a walking cane, and the other a lot of loose scraps of paper; who is he that comes sauntering along, and whose face brightens as he sees General Johnson? That is George Canoin Wilde, of the Sunday Transcript, one of the brightest and most original writers on the Virginia press, whose pen can write the most beautiful pathos, delicate and cutting sarcasm, and the most side splitting wit. He immediately says, "Ha, how are you General, I am glad to see you," and at the same time stuffs his lighted pipe and papers in his open pocket, and put his walking stick from his right hand into his left, and with the unemployed hand shakes the General's warmly. He then says, "General, regard me!" "Sir?" the General will ask. "Sir, I am the smiling Wilde will say. The General still does not know the question at issue, because he does not understand that Mr. Wilde coins various brief expressions which mean that he wants to know the latest news. After asking the General to "permute" him, he will ask him to tell him what he knows about eating beans at night, and as the General begins to talk he will get his pipe back in his mouth and begin smoking and writing at the same time. He will, after putting the General in a thoroughly good humor, leave him. Then look out for beans served up artistically, and spiced with rich sayings savoring strongly of George C. Wilde. These three gentlemen, all passed the middle age of life, have, as I have shown, a characteristic way of getting news. The other reporters here would go about the task in regard to General Johnson eating beans in about the customary newspaper reporter's way, to which the above are exceptions. They would storm the General at home or on the street, and get full particulars. It is true they have their characteristic ways in some matters, but as there are five or six more, and your correspondent has already herewith made a full contribution to the newspaper history of Virginia, it might be well to defer further remarks. The newspaper reporter's life is perhaps the most difficult in the world, and his profession exposes him to many dangers, including free lunches, free tickets, and free whiskey in election times. Under this accumulation of dangers they sometimes succumb.

Rev. Mr. Rainsford closes his services here

to-night. He has been very successful. I do not mean alone in drawing immense crowds, but what is better, his preaching has done much good, and his words have touched more than one soul. I have never seen a divine who was more thoroughly in earnest than Mr. Rainsford. He has the power of riveting the close attention of his hearers. His wealth of language is not so great as his wealth of ideas. He has a wealth of similes which are as beautiful as they are original, although couched in plain, unadorned language. He is indeed a great preacher. Such is the verdict in Richmond. No church can hold the people who go to hear him preach. All denominations, all classes and all colors, in one immense throng, pour into the church, until it is so filled that the police have to close the doors and keep away the crowd. It is strange that in the jam no lady has been seriously hurt. Many ladies have fainted, and some have received bruises, but no accident of a serious nature has occurred. Mr. Rainsford has been urged to stop in the city longer. It is no slight tribute to his power as a preacher when it is understood that since he has been preaching here the theatre and all other amusements have been nearly emptied.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 12.—Rev. Mr. Rainsford closed his mission here last night, on which occasion he preached to gentlemen only. The church was packed to suffocation. The left gallery was reserved entirely for colored men, and they were present in full force. Mr. Rainsford will be warmly welcomed to Richmond whenever he shall see fit to return.

The Senate to day passed a joint resolution abrogating the contract entered into in 1850 by which the State transferred to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad an old claim of \$100,000 against the Federal Government, that corporation failing to carry out the conditions of the contract.

No order was made in the Circuit Court to day in relation to the Washington and Ohio Railroad.

There was a very slim attendance in the House of Delegates to day. The members have become thoroughly fatigued out with the discussion of the tax bill, and the time was occupied with the discussion of the bill reducing salaries. The abolition of the office of the private secretary to the Governor. This action was brought about by the request of the Governor himself. Mr. Echols stated that Gov. Holliday had authorized him to say that he, the Governor, was willing to have his salary cut down in like proportion to that of the other officers of the government. Upon investigation it was ascertained that the Governor's salary was fixed by the constitution, and therefore the General Assembly could not touch it. The House further lopped off the \$400 per annum allowed the Attorney General for office rent, and then proceeded to attempt to lop off the office of second clerk to the Secretary of the Commonwealth (Dr. Geo. W. Bagby) and while engaged in this attempt adjourned until to-morrow.

#### The Barbour Tax Bill.

The following is the text of the tax bill of Mr. Barbour as passed by the House of Delegates on Saturday last:—

A BILL imposing taxes on real and personal property to meet the necessary expenses of the government for the public free school purposes, and to pay the interest on the public debt.

Whereas the condition of the people of this Commonwealth is such as to render an increase of the rate of taxation upon property impracticable, and the General Assembly, in order to meet the necessities of the public, have decided that the rate of taxation shall be confined within the reasonable limits prescribed by what, in the judgment of the General Assembly, is the ability of the citizen to pay without ruinous damage to his property and business, hereby declare that the present rate of taxation—two-fifty cents on every \$100 of the assessed value of property is the utmost limit to which the General Assembly should proceed in levying taxes; and whereas the revenues of the Commonwealth, with the present rate of taxation (which is the highest that should be imposed,) will not enable the Commonwealth to maintain its governmental organization by paying the necessary expenses incident thereto under the most economical obligation to the citizen, and to discharge the obligations to the United States for the free schools, ordained by the fundamental law of this Commonwealth, and to pay the present rate of interest on the amount claimed as the principal of the public debt; 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